

Staff Reports		Tab 13
<p><u>Background:</u></p> <p>Staff will provide updates to the Project Development Committee regarding public information activities, the status of new or recently approved projects, and projected funds available for new projects. Meeting materials include the following items for your review prior to the meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Grants Risk Assessment Report (found under Tab 3)</u> – summarizes the risk assessment matrix for considerations of continuation grant awards, new grant awards and provides more detail about monitoring activities for all TCDD funded projects. This format now includes any concerns identified by grants staff from ongoing monitoring of projects. • <u>Grant Project Highlights</u> – The quarterly Grant Project Highlights Report is enclosed for review by Committee members. This report provides highlights of grantee accomplishments for current TCDD funded projects. Highlights from the Safeplace <i>Meaningful Relationships</i> project will be reviewed by grants staff at the Committee of the Whole. <p>Staff may also refer to the following printed materials, found behind other Tabs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Public Information Report</u> - includes recent public information staff activities that create awareness and build connections. Tab 9 • <u>TCDD Quarterly Financial Report</u> –summarizes TCDD’s approved budget and year-to-date expenditures and is used in projecting funds available for additional projects in future years. Tab 8 		
<u>Project Development Committee</u> <u>Agenda Item 6.</u>	<u>Expected Action:</u> Information items only; no action is anticipated.	
<u>Council</u> <u>Agenda Item 13.</u>	<u>Expected Action:</u> The Council will receive a report on key discussions of the Committee on these items. No action is anticipated.	

TCDD Project Highlights

August 2015

Meaningful Relationships Project

RFP Intent: The project intent is to demonstrate how to support lasting meaningful relationships for people with developmental disabilities. The organization(s) must ensure that all activities are driven by direct input from people with developmental disabilities, the project leadership and staff must include people with disabilities and, the project is required to gather information and feedback from people with developmental disabilities to identify actual barriers to relationships as they are reported by individuals with developmental disabilities.

Grantee: SafePlace

Project Title: Meaningful Relationships

Year: 4

Project Location: Austin, Seguin, Travis and Guadalupe Counties

TCDD Budgeted: \$125,000

Meaningful Relationships will partner with people with developmental disabilities, disability service organizations, an advisory committee and community groups to develop a replicable program to support a) at least 20 individuals with developmental disabilities in developing meaningful relationships based on common interest; and b) at least one partner in changing policies/procedures to increase opportunities for developing those relationships.

Accomplishments:

- During the project period, the project worked with 7 community-based disability service provider partners in Austin and Seguin – American Habilitation, The Arc of the Capitol Area, Draco Services, Inc., Easter Seals, Mary Lee Foundation, Volunteers of America, and Mosaic of South Central Texas.
- Provided opportunities and supports for a total of 82 people with DD to participate in healthy relationships education; regular peer group meetings that provide options for increasing social skill; and, to consider and identify for themselves social and recreational activities they were interested in trying out or doing on a regular basis.
- Worked with 3 disability service partner agencies to develop or revise policies to better support people with DD service agencies administration and care provider staff to develop or adapt policies that support people with DD to have an opportunity(s) to form relationships by engaging more consistently in community life/activities.
- Developed a 16 lesson curriculum which will be included in the project replication toolkit/guide which is in the process of being completed.
- During the final budget period, conducted 14 focus groups with 61 stakeholders to identify systems level and other barriers and creative solutions to replicate and sustain this project. Results are being analyzed and will be included in the final project performance report.

Sustainability:

Sustainability for this and other SafePlace programs occurs via ongoing fundraising activities conducted by the Grants Coordinator and other staff. Through the fundraising activities, SafePlace receives annual support from individuals and the government, foundations, corporate, faith-based and other sectors.